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## *A Message to Louisiana Libraries*

Where so much that is disturbing is happening in the world at large and in our part of it, it seems particularly timely that all of us librarians should realize that unless we feel the unity of our group and cooperate in impressing ourselves and our cause upon those around us, we shall in all likelihood suffer the consequences, and the development of library service, as we would have it, will be retarded.

Federal aid and state aid will be two of the most important issues which will concern us in the immediate future, and we bespeak your hearty cooperation when called upon for action.

We believe that there is no other state which has a more thoroughly informed and genuinely interested group than is found in the membership of the Louisiana Library Association.

We rely upon your continued loyalty and efforts for enlarging library appropriations and programs.

ESSAE M. CULVER, Executive Secretary,  
Louisiana Library Commission.

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## *Thanks a Million!*

The fine reception and Co-operation shown our New Library Bindery by Louisiana Libraries leave us speechless.

It's really an effort for us to get our thick tongue straightened out long enough to say "Thanks" but we really mean it and do appreciate more than words can tell the fine reception you have given us.

From the letters we are receiving from satisfied customers who have placed our bindings on their shelves it is more apparent than ever that Louisiana needed a qualified Library Bindery to serve it and we hope our firm will continue in your Confidence and thus be able to serve you with all your bookbinding needs. Again "Thanks A Million."

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## *County and Regional Libraries\**

### *Respects in Which Organization and Administration Differ From City Library Service*

By TOMMIE DORA BARKER, *Dean*  
*Library School, Emory University*

Certain general principles of library organization and administration are the same for all libraries but their application varies with the type of library, the conditions that control a given situation and the objectives to be achieved. While municipal libraries and county and regional libraries are both types of public library service, there is great variation in the methods of organization and administration, and in the conditions under which the service is given.

A few of the more obvious and general differences may be listed briefly before discussing in some detail the more fundamental differences as regards governmental relationships, methods of control, contractual agreements, finances and budgets, leadership of the librarian and publicity.

#### *General Points of Difference*

The first point of difference that may be noted is the diffused nature of the service. The books and service are carried to the people wherever they live. Because the service comes to them and because of the distance and time involved for travel, there is less use of the central library and consequently a minimizing of importance of the headquarters agency, which in turn should lessen the cause for local jealousies and competition for the location of the headquarters institution.

This diffused nature of the service also affects the layout of the headquarters building. More space is needed for administrative and routine processes and less for readers. Generous provision must be made for the storage of books, for a shipping department and for the convenient handling of loading and un-

loading of book trucks. The shipping room should have an outside entrance accessible to the truck so that the books can go directly from the shipping room to the truck. One new county library building has a platform the same height from the ground as the floor of the truck. The car is backed against this platform, which is connected with the shipping room with a ramp so that books and parcels can be wheeled directly into the truck. In the matter of book storage, the practice in England is to provide storage for 50 per cent of the total probable book stock in ten years time.

Another characteristic of a diffused service is the large amount of record keeping required. While the number of records should be reduced to a minimum, care should be taken to look to the future and plan the records so that they will be adapted to a growing library.

Other points of difference are the extramural activities of the librarian and the personal nature of the service. In the case of scattered populations the visit of the librarian frequently affords one of the few contacts with the outside world and the librarian is regarded as a source of news as well as of books. It may be just as important to the busy housewife to know at the turn of the season whether to let skirt hems down or to turn them up as it is to have the latest book on our economic ills.

Other variations are the variety of service agencies employed, the informal nature of many of them and the frequent use of volunteer custodians. The number of service cen-

\*Digest of talk given at Institute on County and Regional Libraries, Southwestern Library Association, October, 1938.

ters is much larger in proportion to the population than in an urban area. For city service, the recommended standard is a branch to every fifty thousand population. Miss Long<sup>1</sup> says that "it goes without saying that in the larger cities and villages of the county, those with population of a thousand or more, branch library service will be provided." Miss Stewart<sup>2</sup> based the number on membership and book circulation in the library unions in British Columbia. A branch was maintained in centers with a membership of approximately 600 or 700 or over, and a monthly circulation of 1000 books or over. Sub-branches were maintained in centers with a membership of approximately 300 or 500 or over, and a monthly circulation of 400 or 500 or over.

One of the real handicaps to be overcome might be mentioned also and that is the difficulty of really equalizing the services where large areas and scattered populations are to be served.

We now come to some of the more fundamental differences in respect to relation to government, methods of control, finances, etc.

#### *Differences in Respect to Government and Control*

Dr. Joeckel in his book on "The Government of the American Public Library" (p. 264)<sup>3</sup> gives three governmental types of county libraries:

1. Libraries which are part of the county government.
2. Libraries which are part of both the city and the county government.
3. Municipal libraries or libraries of other types which serve the county by contract.

He classifies them also under geographical types (p. 264)<sup>3</sup>:

1. Libraries which serve the entire area of the county.
2. Libraries which serve only a part of the area of the county usually omitting the larger cities.

The differences become more evident in the variations in methods of control and the relationship to government more complicated as more than one political unit is involved.

In respect to methods of control, there are the following variations:

1. Libraries administered without library board. In California, Montana and Texas the county library is directly under the control of the governing body of the county.
2. With county library board. This is the prevailing practice in 31 states according to Dr. Joeckel (p. 266)<sup>3</sup>.
3. Under joint city-county library board, as in Indiana.
4. Under city library board by contract, usually without representation from county.
5. By joint county or regional library board as provided for in the more recent regional library laws, such as Michigan, Washington, British Columbia.

There are still further variations within the county that might be mentioned, as in the case of New Jersey where "each local unit which is a part of the county system retains its own separate library board, is responsible for the maintenance of its own quarters, and provides its own librarian. The county supplies the necessary books for the various stations and general supervision through the county librarian and staff." (Joeckel, pp. 267-68)<sup>3</sup>.

Another variation is the organization of unofficial local committees to sponsor local projects, such as branches, stations, etc. and to act in an advisory capacity to the board and as a liaison agency between the library and their community.

#### *Budgets and Finances*

When we come to consider budgets and finances wide differences in both theories and practices are apparent. One experienced county librarian has raised the question whether rural library service can not be given as less cost than comparable service to a city area.<sup>4</sup> The budgets for the Rosenwald county library demonstrations in the South were put at fifty cents per capita. The decision to use this figure, however, was based on the South's economic ability to support the service rather than on the estimated cost of



good library service. Any consideration of a minimum budget brings up also the question of the size of the unit for efficient library service.

The various pronouncements that have been made regarding budgets and the size of the unit may be outlined briefly.

Dr. Stewart<sup>5</sup> gives the following criteria, based on her experience in the Fraser Valley demonstration:

20,000 volumes is the minimum book collection necessary to serve the varied reading interests of a cross-section of the population regardless of the number of people to be served.

\$300 to \$4000 are required annually to keep the collection up to date. With this book buying budget, the amount of the total annual budget would reach from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

If the calculation of the budget is made on the basis of 40 to 50 cents per capita, which, in Dr. Stewart's opinion, is as much as can be expected from the rural areas, a population unit of from 40,000 to 50,000 people would be required to provide the budget.

Dr. Joeckel (p. 313)<sup>3</sup> approaches the subject in terms of a definition of efficient library service, which includes the following elements: (1) the central administrative authority, (2) a technical unit for the acquisition and preparation of library materials, (3) central reference service, (4) central circulation and readers' advisory service, and (5) local service throughout the area. He considers that it is "unlikely that these requirements are obtainable in a library system with an annual income of less than \$25,000." (p. 317)<sup>3</sup>

One of the earliest pronouncements made on the size of the budget, population unit, etc. was that of the Wisconsin Library Commission<sup>6</sup> which in 1925 declared that the minimum budget for giving good modern library service was \$4000 based on a population unit of not less than 4000 people.

The Michigan library law<sup>7</sup> for the administration of the state aid fund to libraries required the budget of the local unit to be

at least \$6000 and the population to be served at least 5000 in order for the unit to qualify for state aid.

#### *County Library Standards*

Two sets of standards for county libraries have been adopted: the New Jersey County Library Standards<sup>8</sup> and the standards for county libraries prepared by the County Libraries Section of the (British) Library Association.<sup>9</sup> The New Jersey standards accept the A. L. A. standard of \$1.00 per capita to be divided on the basis of thirty-five cents from the county library and sixty-five cents from the local library. The British standard for the budget is forty cents per head minimum annual budget.

#### *Contracts*

Before leaving the question of budgets mention should be made of some of the variations in practice in the division of expense under the contract system. Dr. Joeckel says that "three more or less distinct bases for the making of contracts for library service may be distinguished." (pp. 309-310).<sup>3</sup> The first he calls the flat-rate method by which a rough approximation is made of the probable cost and a lump sum paid for the service rendered. A second method is an exact charge for actual service rendered in terms of a fixed rate for each volume circulated to residents of the outlying territory, or in terms of the same per capita rate of expenditure. The third method is for each of the contracting parties to assume responsibility for definite items in the budget. Another variation is for the charge to be on the basis of the number of borrowers registered as members of the city system from the contracting unit.

#### *Leadership of the Librarian*

It has been said that a library is seventy-five per cent librarian. In the larger unit of library service the per cent might well be increased, for in a diffused service the librarian rather than the building becomes the symbol of the library to its users. Needless to say, the librarian should have a thorough knowledge of the social and economic background of rural life and an understanding of the psychology of rural people.<sup>10</sup> It is

assumed also that he will acquire a detailed knowledge of the community which the library is to serve through the making of a social survey of the unit, and that he will formulate objectives and plans for the progressive development of the service. Too much emphasis cannot be put on the importance of personal contacts and of identifying the library with all the interests to which it can contribute. There should be a close tie-up with the local agricultural extension agencies, the home demonstration agent, the county agent, the county council of rural women, with the teachers of vocational and agricultural education, extension classes and all other agencies of adult education and for the improvement of the conditions of rural life. The librarian will want to make appropriate contacts with and enlist the interest of the local units of the many national organizations<sup>11</sup> that have included the study and advancement of library service in their programs, such as the Parent Teacher Associations, the National Grange, American Farm Bureau, etc.

#### Publicity

The methods of publicity in the county or regional library will be different, at least in emphasis, from those used by the city library, as the best medium of publicity of the city library, the daily newspaper, will usually be lacking. Again, an active librarian is probably the best publicity. The bookmobile or delivery car is in itself an important medium of publicity as it travels up and down the highways, affording visible evidence of the service the library is giving. The bookmobile should be conspicuously marked with the name of the library and its publicity value should be taken into account when it is being built so as to achieve its full value as a publicity medium through the design and appearance of the car.

Obviously, there should be an appropriate sign over every agency of the library. If a uniform sign of distinctive design is used for all agencies, even for bookmobile stops, that comes to be an easily recognized symbol of the library. The library, of course, uses many of the usual methods of publicity,

adapting them to the specific occasion, such as exhibits, posters, book lists, book talks, etc. Whenever a book talk is made it is desirable to have the actual books on display so that they can be borrowed at once, if possible, especially if a lending center is not easily accessible. Many county libraries issue a monthly mimeographed bulletin to keep appropriate officials, custodians and borrowers informed of library activities and to stimulate interest. Match stick drawings may be made to enliven its pages considerably.

The county librarian should not overlook the publicity value of having a formal opening of all agencies of the library, whether branches, stations, centers or whatever. It fosters local enthusiasm and offers an occasion to get important local officials to the library. They might even, in the enthusiasm of the moment, commit themselves to an endorsement of the library from which it would be difficult for them to recede when the time for passing on the library's budget came round again!

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## *Books for the Blind in New Orleans*

By FRANCES D. GISH

*Publicity Assistant, New Orleans Public Library*

The collection of books for the blind furnished by the Library of Congress and distributed to sightless persons in Louisiana and Mississippi by the New Orleans Public Library has been moved from the central library on Lee Circle and St. Charles to the Branch Library on 2940 Canal street. The ground floor of the Canal Branch offers more commodious quarters for the books and provides space for a reading room where, within the near future, tables and chairs will be placed.

The New Orleans Public Library is one of 22 distributing agencies in the United States for the embossed and talking-books furnished by the Library of Congress Project, Books for the Adult Blind.

Until recently there were, for the vast majority of the 120,000 blind persons in this country, no adequate library facilities such as the sighted person takes for granted. The

blind were debarred, except by favor of sighted friends or paid readers, from the enjoyment of literature. That enjoyment could never be the solace of lonely hours or a diversion from an affliction often thrust upon the sufferer late in life at the expense of his daily occupation and his livelihood.

The Project for the Blind was set up by the Federal Government under the Act of March 3, 1931. It authorized an annual expenditure of \$100,000 to provide books for the adult blind. Subsequent acts have twice modified the original law with the result that there was available during 1938 the sum of \$100,000 for books in raised type and \$175,000 for sound-reproduction records, or talking-books. In addition to these sums, appropriated by Congress, President Roosevelt, has since September, 1935, allocated to the Library for the Blind from the Emergency

Relief Appropriations \$829,000 to finance the construction of 20,150 talking-book machines. These machines are loaned to the needy adult blind so that they can make use of the records which were already provided.

The expenditure of these funds and the consequent distribution of embossed books, talking-books and talking-book machines constitutes the activities of the Library of Congress project for the blind.

According to the 1937-38 annual report of this project 23,000 talking-book machines have been distributed by the project during the 7 years of its existence. 319,848 embossed books have been distributed, and 42,366 talking-book containers. The containers for the talking-books average about 13 records each.

The development of the talking book is a recent accomplishment, although the potentialities of the phonograph for this purpose were seen by Thomas A. Edison in 1877 when he applied for a patent on the phonograph.

The American Foundation for the Blind, of New York City, only within recent years succeeded in evolving two types of long-playing machines. One is electrically operated and the other is spring-driven for use where electric power is not available. Here was a workable talking-book, similar in every way to a phonograph, with a turntable speed which made the playing time of one side of a twelve-inch record between 15 and 20 minutes.

Before the Emergency Relief Project was set up in 1935 for the construction of talking-book machines only 2,200 machines were in the hands of blind readers. These had been manufactured and distributed at cost by the American Foundation for the Blind; but the funds for the purchase of the machines had come almost entirely from charity. Since 1935 the Emergency Relief Project has distributed 23,900 machines to the needy blind. This project is sponsored by the Library of Congress and planned and supervised by the American Foundation for the Blind.

Since fully one-half of the 120,000 blind persons in the United States lost their sight after passing middle life it is extremely difficult for them to learn to read raised type with

any facility or to adapt themselves to their new and strange conditions. To this group of people the talking-book has come as an especial boon.

The machines are prorated among the states on a population basis. Louisiana and Mississippi have the use of 562 talking-book machines. They are lent only to needy adult blind persons who are without the care and support of institutions for the blind. They can be borrowed from the Louisiana State Board for the Blind in the New Capitol at Baton Rouge and from the Mississippi State Department of Public Welfare, Division for the Blind, Box 17, Old Capitol Building, Jackson, Mississippi. The talking-books and embossed books (books printed in Braille, Moon, and other types) can be borrowed free of charge from the New Orleans Public Library.

One particularly inviting feature of the talking book is the opportunity it offers of hearing a masterpiece rendered by its author, or in the case of works whose authors are no longer living, by an expert interpreter.

It is often possible to secure the cooperation of an author in recording his book. Some of the authors who have recorded sections of their books are Alexander Woollcott, who made the first record for "While Rome Burned;" Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick; and Stephen Vincent Benet who recorded the invocation in his poem "John Brown's Body." Raymond Ditmars made the first record for "Thrills of a Naturalist's Quest," and William Beebe recorded the opening chapters to his book "Half Mile Down."

Talking-books on the following subjects can be borrowed from the library; religion and ethics; biography; poetry; drama; history; anthropology; description, travel, and adventure; political and social sciences; archeology; science and natural history; and essays and belles-lettres.

The most popular books with the blind are fiction, religious books, and travel. The average reader, like the average sighted reader, enjoys western and mystery stories as well as other books of current fiction and the more readable classics. The Readers Digest



and All Story are the most popular magazines.

A Mississippi college professor and poet recently wrote that he did not like a certain book "because," he said, "life has too much tragedy in it to create artificial horror. It is characteristic of sightless persons to like cheerful books and to eschew the morbid and brutal.

The following quotation from a card addressed to the library is typical of many communications from the blind or their sighted friends. "Mr. Blank has been a great reader and the losing of his eyesight is a calamity and it's hard for him to be reconciled to it. The books will be a great comfort to him."

The state divisions for the blind in both Baton Rouge and Jackson publicize library services to their members. Individuals then write to the library for an explanation of the book service and for an application card. The library sends lists of books, both the embossed and talking, to new members. These readers check the lists and return them to the library where they are filed with the reader's application card and the requested material is mailed out to him as soon as possible.

Readers are kept up-to-date on new books from lists which are sent by the Library of Congress to its distributing agents and from the Mathilda Zeigler magazine. This magazine is published and distributed to all blind people by the Mathilda Zeigler endowment

fund. It is written in Braille and contains a list of current books.

The Braille books are graded according to the difficulty of the type and range from grade one to grade two and a half. Most readers request books embossed in grade 2 of the Braille type. Books and magazines embossed in the Moon type are used by adult blind who for various reasons find it difficult to master the more complicated Braille system. About 10 per cent of our borrowers read the Moon type while 90 per cent read Braille.

By an Act of Congress all embossed books, Braille and other types, and all talking-books in transit between libraries and their readers may pass free through the mails. In the same Act Congress made provisions for the shipment in the mails of the talking-book machines themselves, when necessary for repair and when shipped between a blind and a non-profit-making agency, at the rate of one cent a pound.

The total number of embossed books and magazines in the New Orleans Public Library is 7,303. The total number of containers for talking-books, each container averaging 13 records, is 485. During 1938 the library circulated 1709 embossed books and 5,546 talking-book records to sightless persons in Louisiana and Mississippi. There are 670 borrowers now registered in this department of the library.

## *Quarter of a Century of Library Development and Educational Progress Among Negroes*

By NATHANIEL STEWART  
Librarian, Dillard University

A period of reflection is often a very pleasant interlude. In surveying the significant progress in Negro education and library development during the past quarter of a century, it becomes more than just a pleasant interlude—it might better be regarded as a happy task. The term "educational progress" is probably preferable to "library development", for it is within the general pattern

of educational advancement that library so interdependent that a major advance in one is paralleled by the other in significance.

About twenty-five years ago, under the direction of Thomas Jesse Jones and sponsored by the U. S. Bureau of Education, an exhaustive study on Negro education marked the beginning of an era in educational progress for the Negro. Of course, long before that

time the George Peabody Foundation, the American Missionary Association, the Slater and Jeanes Funds, and the Phelps-Stokes Fund contributed materially toward extended library and educational opportunities for Negroes. However, the study produced in 1916 represents the first vital, scientific, widely publicized report, and represents a milestone in this direction. A number of important studies followed; some were sponsored by the U. S. Bureau of Education, others by denominational boards and philanthropic foundations carrying on educational work among Negroes. The total effort resulted in focusing considerable attention upon the needs of Negro education to elevate it to a respectable plain worthy of mention as an integral part of education in the United States. That any number of deficiencies and gaps prevailed is true; the concept and philosophy of interracial relations was clearly unfolding, and that was the significant and pivotal consideration.

The interest and support of several national foundations was won, undoubtedly, as a result of this growing emphasis upon the provision of educational opportunities for a minority group. The Julius Rosenwald Fund engaged in a twenty year effort which entailed the expenditure of some \$28,000,000. Thousands of school buildings were constructed, a prolonged period of library extension activities was witnessed, and school libraries began to understand the meaning of a core book collection. The richness of this enterprise in terms of morale, spirit, and philosophy is beyond evaluation. The activity of the Carnegie Corporation forms a notable chapter in the history of education for Negroes. Recent reports indicate that the foundation had spent about \$185,000 for public libraries for Negroes and more than \$625,000 for their school libraries. There should be included, too, the work of the General Education Board, which has invested millions of dollars in the program of library development among Negroes. A considerable portion of this investment has gone toward the

improvement of library facilities for the lay and the educated Negro.

Undoubtedly, many personalities operated behind the scenes to make possible this unparalleled episode in American education. James Hardy Dillard has left a deep impression in this field, his activities being so varied and effective as to seem superhuman for one man's heart and shoulders. Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald, John T. Gilbert, Virginia Randolph, Arthur D. Wright and a host of others stand out conspicuously in this monumental effort. Among the present generation are to be found Leo Favrot, Guy B. Johnson, President Frank Graham of the University of North Carolina, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Fred McCuistion, Edgar B. Stern, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, Ambrose Caliver, and an impressive list of others. Locally, the efforts of Mr. A. C. Lewis and Miss Lois F. Shortess represent a record of excellent service. In essence, there is overwhelming evidence that genuine interracial relations have contributed admirably toward combating illiteracy, poverty, family disintegration, disease, and bitterness among the Negro population.

A memorable chapter in library history will yet be written of this noteworthy advance. By no stretch of the imagination is the work over yet—the American Library Association, the University of North Carolina, Teachers College of Columbia University, regional library associations, the University of Chicago, state agents for Negro education, state supervisors of school libraries, and other units are following in the tracks of the pioneers. Libraries for Negroes in colleges and universities have been most fortunate in constructing buildings and enriching their bibliographic resources. School libraries gain each year in book collections and trained assistance. Public library facilities are rapidly expanding in large and medium size cities.

As so ably phrased by Mr. A. C. Lewis, State agent for Negro Education in Louisiana, in a recent annual report of the Department of Education: "By no principle of economics or ethics can a state progress or reach the highest state of development with a large

proportion of the population unskilled, shiftless, ignorant, and diseased . . . The Negro is either an economic asset or an economic liability. The progress of the state depends upon *the education of all its people.*" The cooperative effort of libraries in this region in meeting this challenge has been a notable one. Improvement of interracial relations, as exhibited by library service and cooperation, shows the way to an even brighter era.

(Note: In the next issue of the Bulletin a consideration will be given to the status of Negro libraries as revealed in three important studies: Tommie Dora Barker's "Libraries of the South", "Resources of Southern Libraries" by Robert B. Downs, and Louis R. Wilson's "The Geography of Reading".)

#### NOTES RELATIVE TO NEGRO LIBRARIES

Dillard University has recently completed a successful summer session period, and plans are already under way to continue the experimental program next summer. The work is deliberately designed to integrate library science with the expressional subjects such as art, music, and drama. It appears that emphasis upon the relationship between the library and the expressional areas of learning represents a new direction in Negro education. The library science department would

like to express its gratitude to the following persons for their counsel and assistance: Mr. A. C. Lewis, Miss Lois F. Shortess, Miss Anita McGinity, Mr. John Hall Jacobs, and Miss Elsie Bing.

The library staff of Dillard University has recently been increased through the addition of Miss Hazel E. Edwards, formerly librarian of Fayetteville State Teachers College, N. C. Miss Edwards will act as head cataloger and will be active, too, in developing the new collection of materials on interracial relations.

Xavier University has engaged Mr. Walter Goldschmidt as a member of its staff. Mr. Goldschmidt, an Austrian refugee, was formerly a Vienna publisher. It is our hope, that he may find happiness and opportunity in his new home.

Gaudet Normal and Industrial School is fortunate in obtaining the services of a most promising young librarian in Miss Alice Dungey. Miss Dungey received her education at the University of Chicago and Dillard University, and was formerly a teacher of English in Franklin, La. Starting with practically no raw materials, the new librarian will attempt to create an active library and a healthy library atmosphere. We wish her success in her new venture as librarian and teacher of English at Gaudet.

## Louisiana Library Commission

Since June there is much to report, on many points, and the summer months have seen numbers of changes.

The Natchitoches Demonstration Library opened on schedule June 10, and since that time five branch libraries have been established at Provencal, Montrose, Cloutierville, Marthaville, and Flora. Bookmobile services were begun early in August and by the end of the month the Bookmobile's weekly stops numbered 8. Miss Elizabeth Plexico, a graduate of the L. S. U. Library School, class of 1939, began her duties as W. P. A. Unit Supervisor at Natchitoches September 1.

Members of the Library Commission Staff

and of Parish and Regional library workers in the state were represented in San Francisco at the meeting of the American Library Association in June by Miss Essae M. Culver, who at that meeting became the First Vice-President of the A. L. A., Miss Mary W. Harris, Miss Ruth Ferguson, Miss Debora R. Abramson; Miss Bess Vaughn of the Shreve Memorial Library, Shreveport; and Miss Flora Glenn Watkins of the Webster Parish Library, Minden.

One of the interesting matters brought to the attention of this group was the appointment of a joint committee from the League of Library Commissions, the County and



Regional Library Section, and the Extension Board to plan for a two-day institute on County and Regional library problems. It is proposed that this institute be held preceding the next annual meeting of the A. L. A., which will be in Cincinnati. Parish and Regional librarians take note, and watch for announcements so that, if it is possible, many can attend.

The Bienville Unit of the Lincoln-Bienville Demonstration reports continued progress. Bryceland Branch was opened August 17 in an old bank building on the main corner of the town. Of the population of 176, about 40 visited the library the first day, and almost all of these registered as borrowers.

The Commission Staff reports with pleasure the addition to its ranks of Miss Nantelle Mitchiner as publicity assistant and Miss Lon Venia Gahagan as general assistant. Miss Mitchiner will be glad to give advice and help in planning any publicity and may be consulted about news stories or special features. Please feel free to call upon her. At present she is visiting all of the parish and regional libraries.

Other changes in staff and personnel are that Miss Patricia Motte and Miss Agnes Corkern, both graduates of the 1939 class at Louisiana State University and summer staff members, will be located in the Terrebonne Demonstration, which will be opened in October. Miss Margaret Reed, following her summer work at the University, has assumed the Librarianship of the East Baton Rouge Library, invitations to the opening of which are being distributed at this time. The date of this important happening will be September 14, and Miss Reed has among her assistants Miss Tillie Abramson, and Miss Helen Shores, a W. P. A. Unit Supervisor, formerly on duty at the Commission offices.

The Tri-Parish Library staff has had many changes too: Misses Neville Reid and Irene Smith were married this summer; Mrs. Leo Roberts is assuming the position of the former, and Miss Anne Giddens has been appointed to succeed Miss Smith. Miss Louise Gray, formerly of the Jonesboro-Hodge Library resigned to accept a position in the Northeast

Center Library in Monroe, and Miss Nancy Sexton has taken her place in Jackson Parish. The Tri-Parish reports that two book clubs have been organized, one in Jonesboro and one in Winnfield.

The latest report from Concordia Parish is to the effect that Mr. James McGee has been appointed Librarian of the Concordia Parish Library.

The Webster Parish Library will celebrate its tenth anniversary in late October or early November. The week's festivities will include a homecoming for all former Webster Parish Library workers and a special story hour for children. Local organizations will take part in the program. Webster Parish has added to its staff Miss Jewel Moore, also a member of the summer staff of the Louisiana Library Commission.

Both Webster and Tri-Parish report an increase in the number of books circulated among Negro borrowers; of the 303,070 books circulated in Webster during the fiscal year of 1939, 83,947 were read by Negroes. In the Tri-Parish 1,509 books were read by Negroes in July, and it was noted that there was greater interest in reading after a member of the library staff talked at the Negro Folk School in Grant Parish, reviewing books of special appeal. The service to Negroes is just being organized in this area.

On August 25, 26, parish and regional librarians met at Baton Rouge for a library institute. The program, while informal, included much serious discussion on procedures and practices, problems, and projects. Such subjects as budgets, financial records, methods of stimulating reading, as well as details of counting circulation, and other records that would help unify and make for more efficient practices were brought up. The final session was a luncheon meeting at which Miss Ella V. Aldrich, readers' advisor for the L. S. U. Library, spoke to the group on recent developments in county and regional libraries throughout the U. S.

The Louisiana Library Commission has decided to issue a new Reading Certificate List and the new lists are being printed at this time. The general consensus of opinion of



persons attending the institute was that the project should be continued. It is urged that it be promoted by all librarians.

In conclusion, the Commission will find its Executive-Secretary away from the State a large part of the month of October. During the first week, she will attend a meeting of the Executive Extension Boards of the Amer-

ican Library Association in Chicago; this will be followed by the annual meeting of the Iowa Library Association in Des Moines, October 15-17; the Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan Library Associations, meeting jointly at Milwaukee, October 18-21; and finally the New Mexico Library Association annual conference at Albuquerque, October 27-28. At all of these meetings she will speak.

## *Junior Members' Round Table*

The officers of the Junior Members are:

Chairman—Patricia Catlett, Librarian, Lake Charles High School.

Vice-Chairman—Margaret Reed, Head Librarian, East Baton Rouge Parish Library.

Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. Maud O. Broussard, Cataloging Department, Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette.

Executive Board—Grey Hughes, in charge of Curriculum Library, L. S. U. Margaret Burke, Librarian, Xavier University, New Orleans.

Index Project—Sallie Farrell, Louisiana Library Commission.

A committee of Junior Members is at work on a local index project that should prove quite helpful to librarians. They are compiling a file of all indexes in the school, public, and college libraries of Louisiana. If you have not done so, already, will you please list all such indexes in your library on 3x5 P-Slips, giving the following information:

(Please leave space at top of the slip so that we can assign our own subject heading).

TITLE: Index to holiday material.

FORM: On cards, etc.

ARRANGEMENT: Alphabetical by subject.

SCOPE: Books, periodicals.

SIZE: 150 entries.

ADDITIONS: Made frequently, seldom, etc.

USE: Frequently, seldom.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE LIBRARY.

NOTE: Typing is requested if possible.

Biography, history, music, pictures, plays, in fact, any indexes at all are welcome. Even though some of your indexes may seem small and unimportant to you, please list them anyway, as they may be just the thing that some other library would like to know about. We shall appreciate your cooperation in this professional project. Mail your slips to the Chairman, Pat Catlett, who will direct it to the committee in charge of this project.

IS YOUR NAME IN THE DIRECTORY? HAVE YOU CHANGED POSITION, ETC? Read below:

Those who have used the directory of Louisiana Librarians, compiled by the Junior Members, know what a valuable piece of work it is. However, it will soon be of no use unless it is kept up-to-date. We are beginning to work on a supplement which will be printed soon. If your name is not in the directory or you have changed position, name and address, please send the following information to Mrs. Carroll Cormier, 125 North Hennessy, New Orleans: *Name, permanent home address, present position and address, training* (college, hours or degree), *experience* (years and position), *whether* a member of A.L.A., L.L.A., and J.M.R.T.

Wedding bells rang this summer for Mabel Callender, of the L. S. U. Cataloging Department, and Patricia Watson, Librarian of the Edward Douglass White High School in New Orleans. Irene Smith, Supervisor of School Libraries in the Tri-Parish Demon-

stration, is to be married soon, and her position will be filled by Anne Elizabeth Giddens of Coushatta.

Miss Florinell Francis, Instructor of Classification and Cataloging at L. S. U., spent the summer traveling in Europe.

Elizabeth Johnson, former secretary of the L. S. U. Library School, is at Columbia this year working towards a Master's Degree. Laura Jones is at L. S. U. doing graduate work in Library Science. Both Laura and

Elizabeth were in the Reference Department at L. S. U. this summer.

Mary McFarland is full-time librarian at De Quincy this year, and Elizabeth Middleton is full-time librarian at Welsh.

Mildred Hogan spent her vacation in Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks with a stop-over at the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco.

Junior Members: If you have any news please send it to Evelyn Stuart Cormier, 125 North Hennessy, New Orleans.

## Public Libraries

### ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

During the summer period 161 books were added to the Alexandria Public Library and a number of magazines were donated. A total of 7,050 volumes were circulated and a number of magazines. This was a substantial increase over circulation figures for the summer of 1938.

In addition to this, through the courtesy of the Louisiana Library Commission and other libraries in this state and in neighboring states, many valuable books were borrowed and circulated to readers.

A total of 293 new registrations were noted, an increase over registrations of the summer of 1938.

### LAKE CHARLES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lake Charles Public Library, Mrs. C. M. Dees, Librarian, began a program of publicizing its activities in the city by means of posters which will be displayed in hotels and in the Association of Commerce.

The posters, prepared for the library by Miss Elaine Davidson, advise the public to "read before you travel" and "travel far—free." They also inform prospective library users that it costs nothing to read books available there and that "every week is good book week."

Simultaneously with the start of the publicity program, Mrs. Dees announced an impressive list of new books just received at the library.

### NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The focus of reading interest in the New Orleans Public Library has been centered on European background and international relations. There are increasing demands for such material as: Van Paasen's *Days of Our Years*, Sheean's *Not Peace But a Sword*, Waln's *Reaching for the Stars*, Beard's *The Devil Theory of War*, and Buell's *Poland: Key to Europe*.

A book display entitled *What Price Glory*, which was built around a poster containing World War figures, carrying World War novels, histories, plays, poetry, and memoirs, has accelerated circulation of many post-war books including: Hemingway's *Farewell to Arms*, Zweig's *Case of Sergeant Grisha*, McCrae's *In Flanders Fields*, and Sherriff's *Journey's End*.

The serious consideration and public concern over foreign affairs have been manifest in the library through personal requests, telephone calls, and the active reserve system of the Circulation Department.

It is interesting to note that Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* has been the most popular title of fiction for the past two months. Recently an editorial appeared in a local newspaper which commented on the fact that this title was leading in all key cities over the country except New Orleans. The article went on to state that New Orleans was mysterious anyway, when it came to reading, but

proffered no other explanation. One wonders whether it was the editorial or a natural trend in reading which caused the immediate rise in popularity of *Grapes of Wrath*.

The Children's Theatre, sponsored by the New Orleans Better Films Chapter, will open for its third season on October 7th. Two shows will be given each Saturday afternoon in the auditorium of the main library. Feature pictures for the 1939-40 season will include a number of sound films from such classics as: *The Hoosier Schoolboy*, *Oliver Twist*, and *Great Expectations*, besides selections from western pictures and stories of the Canadian Mounted Police. Travel, nature films, and other educational shorts will also be shown. Book talks and a plan for winning a reading certificate will be coordinated with the film programs.

Six radio broadcasts were given by the New Orleans Public Library over WWL during July and August. These were fifteen-minute programs presented at nine-thirty in the evening. The broadcasts were discontinued during the recent European crisis and no time for the winter programs has been scheduled to date. The summer broadcasts were given by members of the staff and by patrons of the library, who were selected by the radio committee. The radio scripts were written by members of the radio committee, all of whom are on the library staff. The scripts consisted of talks on various subjects, such as: literary prizes, historical fiction and biography, and of selections from books for group interpretative reading.

Work on the new branch building, located in the ninth ward, is going forward and it is hoped that this branch may be opened before the first of the year. It will be known as the Alvar Street Branch, New Orleans Public Library. Books are being assembled, and all of the staff are participating in the work of preparing for this newest addition to the system.

Children's Summer Reading activities have been carried on in all six of the branches,

with special projects in four of them, for which reading certificates were issued on the completion of the project. It is estimated that about 700 children read 2,275 books as a result of these projects, and 220 certificates were issued.

The special projects were:

Algiers Branch—Summer Reading Club.

Canal Branch—Read-for-Fun Club.

Nix Branch—Nix Branch Reading Club.

Two graded divisions: Travel Club; Gypsy trailing.

Dryades Branch (Colored)—World's Fair in books.

Mrs. Bonner Dahlgrin, part-time assistant in the branches, was in charge of the Algiers Branch Reading Club.

Mrs. Edwarda Parsons Macmurdo has resigned from the New Orleans Public Library, terminating seven years' service. Mrs. Macmurdo, until 1936, was an assistant in the Reference Department, and since 1936 has served as Acting Head of that department. Miss Margaret Ruckert has been appointed Acting Head of the Reference Department to replace Mrs. Macmurdo.

Miss Shirley Knowles returned August 15th from a leave of absence granted to attend the Library School of Louisiana State University. She has been assigned to the Circulation Department as an Information Assistant.

Miss Janet Riley, who is now enrolled in the Library School of Louisiana State University, did practice work in the New Orleans Public Library from July 10th through August 10th. During the month Miss Riley received instruction and practical experience in the various phases of library work.

#### SHREVE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Shreve Memorial Library finds itself this summer the proud possessor of several hundred new books. These are replacements of the perennial favorites, many of which have not been replaced since before the depression.

Mrs. Reba Sponcelar, a member of this staff, has enrolled in L. S. U. for a year's study of library work.

## School Libraries

One piece of news is delighting school librarians this fall. It concerns the 1939 State Library book order, which is to go through exactly as planned, each school receiving the full quota of books ordered.

Both textbooks and library books furnished by the State are paid for from one fund, and since there had been an increase in the number of textbooks required, it was feared last spring that the library order might have to be reduced accordingly. However, when the estimates for the 1939-40 session were completed in July, it was found that the cost of new textbooks would be less than was expected. Therefore, no changes were made in the library orders.

Eight school librarians were employed in the State Department of Education office during the summer for the work of checking and approving the book orders. These included the following: Evelyn Peters, May Lynn Amiss, Stella Dolhonde, Lillian Phillips, Elma Templet, Ruby Moore, Dorothy Steidtmann, and Clara Griffon. A number of clerical workers also assisted with the checking and revision.

"No More English Collaterals" is a slogan resounding in the libraries and English classrooms of high schools all over the State this month. The old policy of requiring every high school student to read and report on six books each year has been abandoned, according to a new ruling from the High School Division of the Department of Education, and librarians are finding that as a result more voluntary reading is being done than ever before. Although the new state of affairs will demand more work of the librarian and place more responsibility on her shoulders, it is being welcomed as an opportunity to stimulate the reading interests of students by removing all restrictions.

Placements and changes of position among Louisiana school librarians were not as nu-

merous this past summer as in the last few years. However, word has come of several newcomers to the profession, as well as some promotions for those already in the work. The following is a partial list of changes for the coming session: Frances Moak, Librarian, Iota High School; Alexa McCain, Librarian, Oil City High School; Mary Morgan, Assistant Librarian, Fair Park High School, Shreveport; Mary McFarland, Librarian, De Quincy High School; Mrs. Maxie Gamble, Librarian, Logansport High School; Arda E. Frans, Librarian, Mansfield High School; Salome Thalheim, Librarian, Gretna High School; Olive Gehring, Librarian, S. L. I. Training School, Lafayette; Evelyn Hubbard, Assistant Librarian, Ouachita Parish High School, Monroe; Hannah Jolley, Librarian, Franklin High School; Cloma Barron, Librarian, Lyon High School, Covington; Eileen Magee, Librarian, Franklinton High School; Mary O'Neal Clifford, Librarian, Hosston High School.

The summer of 1939 will stand out in the memories of at least three school librarians, who attended the school library conference held at the Columbia University School of Library Service June 28 to July 3. The three lucky ones were Clara Griffon, Lucile Pugh, and Dorothy Steidtmann. They report that the meeting provided some very interesting speakers and valuable discussions, besides, of course, giving them an opportunity to visit the World's Fair and to do sightseeing in New York.

Most school librarians in the State are familiar with the work done by the WPA bookbinding projects, under the supervision of Mrs. Jay M. Gill. Because of a recent ruling from Washington that textbooks are ineligible for binding by the WPA, the workers are now devoting full time to school library books.

Since the number of projects is limited, arrangements are now being made by which



each project will bind books for neighboring parishes, so that every parish in the State can be assigned a project to which to send books for repair. The participating parishes will share the expense, which is very slight.

Private schools of elementary and high school rank may share in this plan. Interested librarians should inquire of the parish superintendent of schools when and where to send books.

## College and Reference Section

### SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA INSTITUTE

Mrs. Louise Clegg retired this year after about twenty-three years of service. She was at one time the only member of the library staff. The faculty and older students will miss her. However, she will still make her home in Lafayette.

Miss Josephine Pedigo of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, has been added to our staff as Reference Librarian. She is a graduate of George Peabody College and worked for several years in the public library of Wilkes-Barre.

Miss Olive Gehring, formerly of Welsh, is librarian of the Southwestern Elementary Training School Library. The library science classes will also be taught by Miss Gehring.

### CENTENARY COLLEGE

Mrs. Frank Tindol is on a year's leave of absence from Centenary and Annie Katherine Dement is serving as librarian in her place. Miss Dement is a graduate of the North Carolina Library School and is the third alumnae of North Carolina to be librarian at Centenary.

### LOUISIANA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Miss Marjorie Leigh, cataloger, received her M. A. degree in teacher-training from Peabody in June.

Miss Edna Ralston, M. A., University of Illinois Library School, '39, has been added to the staff this fall as Circulation and Reference Librarian.

### NORMAL COLLEGE AND ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

Mother Adele Carr, librarian at the Normal College and Academy of the Sacred

Heart, Grand Coteau, writes that their library has been moved into the new College Building, where they have bright and spacious quarters. Additional chairs and tables now allow 30 readers in the library at one time. The library is being reorganized on a larger basis with the aid of student workers. A course of Library Science for the college freshmen was inaugurated last year. Mother Carr has also been giving talks on the library and books to the student body throughout the year.

### NORTHEAST JUNIOR COLLEGE

Louise Gray, formerly librarian of the Jonesboro-Hodge Branches of the Tri-Parish Library Demonstration, is now a member of the staff of this library. She fills the place left vacant by the sad death of Lillian Heron Williamson. Miss Gray will conduct the class in *The Use of Books and Libraries*, a course compulsory for all freshmen. A substantial revision in the organization of this class has been effected in the interests of uniformity with Louisiana State University's program for the treatment of this subject.

The beautiful new building which has been erected on the campus for housing the library has been practically completed. The early weeks in October should see the new quarters in use.

The two-day program of orientation for freshmen, which is customary at this school, gives prominence to the library, providing an opportunity for the librarian to introduce the library to the new students in a talk to the student and faculty assembly. The school also follows the practice of holding a weekly assembly, and the library has asked that the one scheduled for Wednesday, November 15th, be given over to an observance of *Book Week*.

### MIDDLE AMERICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Miss Muriel Haas, assistant to the librarian of the Middle American Research Institute, has resigned her position, effective September 1st, to take work during the coming year in Graduate Library Science at Columbia University School of Library Service.

Arthur E. Gropp, Librarian of the Middle American Research Institute, attended the American Library Association Convention in San Francisco, and directed the meeting of the Committee on Library Cooperation with Latin America. This committee sponsored a Latin-American book exhibit at the convention and was host to a number of Latin-American librarians, delegates to the conference.

The president of the American Library Association has appointed Mr. Gropp to the Advisory Committee of its Committee on Library Cooperation with Latin America for the year 1939-1940.

### LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

The library has installed this year the Gaylord Automatic Electric Charging Machine because the other systems of charging are no longer adequate or accurate.

We have added several pieces of new equipment for accessioning and marking books, an embossing machine and a numbering machine.

The year just ended in July was a very successful one for the library as we had a very satisfactory increase in circulation, both for students as well as for the faculty.

Miss Harriet Lemann, a graduate of L. S. U. Library School, has been added to the staff this year.

We have many new plans for this year and a very attractive publicity program will be carried out.

### NEW ORLEANS CITY HALL ARCHIVES

The collection of ancient and modern data, which is located in the City Hall Archives, consists of priceless documents pertaining to the history of the City, State and the Province of Louisiana.

The task of preserving and reconditioning these valuable records is still being performed by a W. P. A. White Collar Project. Codifying of ordinances, indexing newspapers, translation of old documents of both French and Spanish into English, and the binding and mending of old books is steadily advancing.

The volume of this work that has been accomplished through the compilation and preservation of these valuable records will only be appreciated by the service the public will receive in the future from the City Hall Archives.

### TULANE UNIVERSITY

Miss Laura Jones has been on leave of absence since May 31st. She is attending Louisiana State University Library School, where she is working toward a higher degree. Mr. Robert McCartney joined the staff of Tulane University Library on June 1st as an assistant in the Cataloging Department during the absence of Miss Jones.

## Miscellaneous News Notes

Late news on federal aid as reported by the American Library Association is as follows:

"When Congress adjourned in the summer, the Harrison-Thomas Bill, S. 1305, for federal aid to education, including libraries, was on the Senate calendar for consideration and vote, having been reported back favor-

ably by the Committee on Education and Labor after public hearings. In January, when the second session convenes, the bill will still be on the calendar and will have the same name and number. An early vote in the Senate and prompt consideration of the companion Larrabee Bill, H. R. 3517, by the House Committee on Education is anti-

pated. The Federal Relations Committee, therefore, urges the State associations to take advantage of the interim to work on their Senators and Representatives, to renew their endorsement at fall meetings, to seek endorsement and active support from citizen groups and influential individuals, and to send to A. L. A. quarters word of the attitude of their Congressmen. This is also the time to consider preparations within the States in order to be eligible for the grants and ready to use them constructively. As an aid, the Library Extension Board has prepared a leaflet, 'Federal Aid for Libraries; Preparations Needed in the States for Securing and Using Federal Grants.' President Munn sets as a main objective for the year the strengthening of the State library agencies so that they can give effective leadership and be ready to administer State and Federal aid."

At the State meeting of the L. L. A. in Natchitoches last spring, a motion was carried that the Association petition for a chapter in the A. L. A. Louisiana's petition has been accepted, entitling it to representation on the A. L. A. Council. No appointment of a representative has as yet been made.

Will Ransom, secretary of the Printing Anniversary Committee of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, calls attention to the fact that the year 1940 will be the 500th anniversary of the invention of printing. First printing in the Western Hemisphere began at Mexico City in 1539, and in 1640 the "Bay Psalm Book" was brought out by the Stephen Daye Press of Cambridge, Massachusetts, the earliest publication within what is now the United States. The anniversary will be appropriately celebrated, plans having been made by the American Institute of Graphic Arts. Mr. Ransom will supply a "Manual of Suggestions" to anyone interested in cooperating through the use of appropriate displays.

Congratulations to the East Baton Rouge Parish Library on the formal opening of its

new building on September 14th. City, school and parish authorities, the Citizens' Library Association, the Louisiana Library Commission, librarians and members of assisting social groups joined with the Library Board in a program of dedication. Miss Margaret Reed is the librarian of the institution which will serve readers in all parts of East Baton Rouge Parish. Miss Mae Barrow, who has been librarian of the Baton Rouge Public Library for the past 18 years, continues in a position of responsibility under the new management. Other members of the staff are Miss Tillie Abramson, Miss Emily Morvant, Mrs. Ida Yates, Mrs. Mae Noland, Mrs. Mary Isham and Miss Helen Shores.

#### CERTIFIED LIBRARY BINDING

On April 28th complaint was made by Mr. Louis N. Feipel, Secretary of the Joint Committee of A. L. A. and Library Binding Institute, that an improper use of insignia authorized for use only of certified library binderies had been made in the March issue of *The Bulletin*. The insignia in question had appeared in the advertisement of the Pelican Book and Bindery House, not yet a certified bindery.

A thorough investigation of the circumstances has been made. The copy for the advertisement was supplied by Mr. C. W. Carroll, president of the Universal Publishing Syndicate. Mr. Carroll did not, however, authorize the use of the insignia. They were used, in error, by direction of the editor, the insignia having been left at the printing office, where they had been properly used for the December advertising of the Pelican Book and Bindery House, as we understand it, the new bindery being at that time a branch of the Universal Book Bindery, Inc., of San Antonio.

We regret the error and assure all concerned it will not be repeated.

Meanwhile, we are informed the Pelican Book and Bindery House has made application for recognition as a certified bindery. Since the new bindery is turning out splendid work, entirely satisfactory to many Louisiana librarians, we wish it success in its application.

## *Louisiana in Print*

Recent references on Louisiana or by Louisiana authors, including books of importance locally printed, selected and annotated by Marguerite D. Renshaw, Reference Librarian, Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans, Louisiana.

### NON-FICTION

CHILDS, WILLIAM TALBOTT—John McDonogh; his life and work. 255 p. Baltimore, Meyer & Thalheimer, 1939.

A sympathetic study of the enigmatic philanthropist by the one-time head-master of the John McDonogh School of Baltimore, written in the hope that it may bring a greater knowledge and better understanding of the man whose "real character was never known while he lived, but whose real worth to humanity became known after his death."

DEMAISON, ANDRE—*Terre d'Amérique*. 336 p. Paris, Librairie Arthème Fayard, 1939.

The author's impressions of his voyage to the United States. The first 76 pages record in a very charming style his visit to New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana.

GILMER, ELIZABETH MERIWETHER (DOROTHY DIX)—How to win and hold a husband. 268 p. N. Y., Doubleday, Doran & Co., 1939.

Dorothy Dix's knowledge and understanding of human nature, her common sense and sympathy, have won for her the confidence of thousands of women. In this book of hers she tells them that some of the main factors for a happy marriage are common sense, tolerance, sportsmanship, tact, patience and unselfishness.

HARDIN, J. FAIR—*Northwestern Louisiana*. 3 vols. bibliog., f. Louisville, Historical Record Association. (1939).

A distinct and welcome contribution in the historical study of the State. Well qualified by years of historical research, Mr. Hardin presents a well-written, well-

documented and comprehensive history of Northwestern Louisiana.

JEFFERSON PARISH. POLICE JURY—Jefferson Parish yearly review, 1939. 216 p. (Gretna 1939).

The fifth annual year-book of Jefferson Parish has all the good qualities of the four preceding volumes with additional information in regard to the achievements of the Parish. Of particular interest are the articles: "Tropical Trappers' Fur Frontier," by Meigs Frost, and "A Brief History of Jefferson Parish," by the Historical Records Survey. Beautiful photographic views by Delcroix, Winans, Martin and W. Vandivert, staff photographer of "Life."

LOEB, HARRY BRUNSWICK—*Gullibles' Ravels*. An exhausting treatise on the art of sing-ging. 80 p. N. Y., Arts and Letters Publications, c. 1939.

An amusing and nonsensical satire on the art of singing by New Orleans' well-known music-lover and critic.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION—*Geology of Caldwell and Winn Parishes*. (Geological Bulletin No. 15). 356 p. New Orleans, La., Department of Conservation, 1939.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION—*Reports on water supply of Louisiana to September 30, 1938*. (Geological Bulletin No. 16). 196 p. New Orleans, La., Department of Conservation, 1939.

LOUISIANA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE—*Poems by the Tyros*. Vol. II. Ruston, La. (1939).

A collection of meritorious poems written by the students of the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute.

MCCUTCHEON, ROGER P.—*First English plays in New Orleans*. (Reprinted from *American Literature*, v. II, No. 2, May 1939). Bibliog., f.

An informative and interesting study of the early English drama in New Orleans



by the Dean of the Graduate School, Tulane University.

#### NORTH AMERICAN BOOK OF VERSE.

Five vols. Henry Harrison, 1939.

None of the poems in this collection have ever been published in any other anthology. Volume V of this set contains the Louisiana section edited by Allan Swallows.

NEW ORLEANS GARDEN SOCIETY, INC.—Year-book, 1939. 81 p. (New Orleans, Rogers Printing Co., 1939).

Besides the reports of the several activities of the New Orleans Garden Society, the year-book contains an interesting historical summary of the society by Mrs. R. P. Bassich and a reprint of Clarence F. Low's valuable article, "Notes on Gardening in New Orleans," revised and edited by Mrs. R. J. Usher.

PARKER, WALTER—New Orleans. The Hoo-Doo candle and other stories. 87 p. New Orleans, Rogers Printing Co., c. 1939. In this slim volume the writer relates a series of incidents in which he and a small group of friends participated. These sketches of local color and replete with human interest are told in a most delightful manner.

RASCH, O. G. H.—Men Wanted. 266 p. New Orleans, Pelican Publishing Co., c. 1939.

A practical guide to success for chain-store employees. In a simple and interesting style it points out possibilities and opportunities, and tells the ambitious young men and women how to prepare themselves so as to make a success of chain-store work.

RICKETTS, D. G. W.—Boundary problems and development projects. Pitfalls and how to avoid them. 128 p. 140 plates. New Orleans, Pelican Publishing Co., c. 1939.

A reference work on the proper and practical methods of surveying, which should be of value not only to land-owners but to civil engineers, surveyors, lawyers and realtors.

TRESSLER, IRVING D.—With Malice Toward All. 169 p. New York, Stackpole, c. 1939.

Mr. Tressler's account of his trip through the South offers much good entertainment. He shows up New Orleans as "one of the cities that reek with bronze plates on historical doorways but the entrance to it is one of the most uniquely unpleasant in the United States" and "Gossip and Mardi Gras occupy New Orleans inhabitants most of the year." A little further he makes this refreshing comment: "Still, New Orleans remains about the only city in this self-conscious country where the Mayor can actually don a fool's cap and dance down the main street without having an editorial written about it."

#### FICTION

BASSO, HAMILTON—Days Before Lent. 371 p. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1939.

A powerful realistic novel set against the colorful background of Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

EDMUNDS, MURRELL—Between the Devil. 288 p. New York, E. P. Dutton, 1939.

The dramatic and poignant story of the struggle of a young minister against the industrial conflict taking place in a small Virginia town. Mr. Murrell, a Virginian by birth, has resided in New Orleans for the last few years.

VAN VROOMAN, MARIA—Shine. Illustrated by Inez Hogan. 50 p. New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., c. 1939.

A perfectly charming little book, both in both theme and in illustrations. Young and old will enjoy this story of Shine with the shiny black face and the shiny white teeth and just too little to do anything.

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ARTS AND INDUSTRIES AND SOUTHERN OPINION. V. I, No. 1, July 1939. New Orleans, La. Louisiana Sugar & Rice Exchange Bldg., 301 Front St.

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